

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

In the matter of:	)	Docket No. 13-IEP-1P
	)	
Preparation of the	)	RE: Assembly Bill 2339
<i>2013 Integrated Energy Policy Report</i>	)	(Geothermal Heat Pumps)
	)	
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**NOTICE OF STAFF WORKING GROUP  
ON GEOTHERMAL HEAT PUMP AND GROUND LOOP TECHNOLOGIES**

The staff of the California Energy Commission is seeking to convene a working group composed of other state agencies, cities, counties, and other interested parties to evaluate policies to overcome barriers to the use of geothermal heat pump and geothermal ground loop technologies. Information about how to join the working group is included below.

## Background

Public Resources Code, section 25228 (added by Assembly Bill 2339, Chapter 608, Statutes of 2012), requires the Energy Commission, in consultation with the California Public Utilities Commission, cities, counties, special districts, and other stakeholders, to evaluate policies to overcome barriers to the use of geothermal heat pump and geothermal ground loop technologies, and to include its evaluations and recommendations in the *2013 Integrated Energy Policy Report* (2013 IEPR).

In evaluating these policies and strategies, the Energy Commission shall consider all of the following:

1. The quantitative benefits and costs to ratepayers specific to safer, more reliable, or less costly gas or electrical service and through greater energy efficiency, reduction of health and environmental impacts from air pollution, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions related to electricity and natural gas production and use, through the use of geothermal heat pump and geothermal ground loop technologies.

2. The existing statutory and permit requirements that impact the use of geothermal heat pumps and geothermal ground loop technologies and any other existing legal impediments to the use of geothermal heat pump and geothermal ground loop technologies.
3. The impact of the use of the geothermal heat pump and geothermal ground loop technologies on achieving the state's goals pursuant to the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Health & Safety Code, § 38500 et seq.) and achieving the state's energy efficiency goals.

Public Resources Code Section 25302 requires the Energy Commission to prepare an integrated energy policy report every two years for submittal to the Governor that provides an overview of major energy issues and trends facing California. The report makes energy policy recommendations based on the Energy Commission's energy assessments and forecasts with the intent of conserving resources, protecting the environment, providing reliable energy, enhancing the state's economy, and protecting public health and safety.

## **Purpose of Working Group**

The Working Group will review, comment and make independent suggestions for the Energy Commission staff to consider in recommending policies that may overcome barriers to the use of geothermal heat pump and geothermal ground loop technologies, which may ultimately be adopted by the Energy Commission and included in the 2013 IEPR.

The Energy Commission staff is especially interested in the participation of technical subject experts from the geothermal heat pump and geothermal ground loop industries (manufacturers, installers, and distributors), the California Public Utilities Commission, the Air Resources Board, and interested cities, counties, and special districts.

## **Join the Working Group**

To participate as part of the working group, please send your name, organization name, and e-mail address to Joe Loyer at [Joe.Loyer@energy.ca.gov](mailto:Joe.Loyer@energy.ca.gov) by **June 7, 2013**. The Energy Commission staff will also provide opportunity to sign up for the Working Group at public workshops on this topic.

Those who sign up to be a part of the working group will be added to an e-mail list specific to this topic. You may also request to be added to the e-mail list without being a part of the working group to remain informed about this topic and related proceedings by sending an e-mail to Joy Loyer and requesting this in the body of your e-mail.

## **Public Participation**

Public input is essential to ensuring a complete and thorough record on which to base California's energy policy recommendations. Members of the public are invited to attend and comment at meetings of the Working Group that will be scheduled on an as-needed basis, and may submit written comments for the Working Group's consideration for the development of policies in compliance with the requirements of AB 2339. Written comments to the March 21, 2013, workshop should be submitted to the Dockets Unit by **April 12, 2013**.

Please note that your written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (e.g. your address, phone, email, etc.) will become part of the viewable public record. Additionally, this information may become available via Google, Yahoo, and any other search engines.

The Energy Commission encourages comments by e-mail. Please include your name and any organization name. Comments should be in a downloadable, searchable format such as Microsoft® Word (.doc) or Adobe® Acrobat® (.pdf). Please include the docket number 13-IEP-1P and indicate AB 2339 in the subject line. Send comments to [docket@energy.ca.gov](mailto:docket@energy.ca.gov) and copy the technical lead staff at [Joe.loyer@energy.ca.gov](mailto:Joe.loyer@energy.ca.gov).

If you prefer, you may send a paper copy of your comments to:

California Energy Commission  
Dockets Office, MS-4  
Re: Docket No. 13-IEP-1P  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

## **Public Adviser and Other Commission Contacts**

The Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office provides the public assistance in participating in Energy Commission proceedings. If you want information on how to participate in this forum, please contact the Public Adviser's Office at (916) 654-4489 or toll free at (800) 822-6228, or by e-mail at [PublicAdviser@energy.ca.gov](mailto:PublicAdviser@energy.ca.gov).

If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact Lou Quiroz at [Lou.Quiroz@energy.ca.gov](mailto:Lou.Quiroz@energy.ca.gov) or (916) 654-5146 at least five days in advance of your desired date of participation.

Media inquiries should be sent to the Media and Public Communications Office at (916) 654-4989, or by e-mail at [mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov](mailto:mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov).

If you have questions about the working group or about geothermal heat pump or geothermal ground loop technologies, please call Joe Loyer at (916) 654-4811 or e-mail him at [Joe.Loyer@energy.ca.gov](mailto:Joe.Loyer@energy.ca.gov).

For general questions regarding the IEPR proceeding, please call Lynette Green, IEPR project manager, at (916) 653-2728 or e-mail her at [Lynette.Green@energy.ca.gov](mailto:Lynette.Green@energy.ca.gov).

The service list for the 2013 *IEPR* is handled electronically. Notices and documents for this proceeding are posted to the Energy Commission website at [www.energy.ca.gov/2013\\_energy policy/index.html](http://www.energy.ca.gov/2013_energy policy/index.html). When new information is posted, an e-mail will be sent to those on the energy policy e-mail list server. We encourage those who are interested in receiving these notices to sign up for the list server through the website [www.energy.ca.gov/listservers/index.html](http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers/index.html).

## **Availability of Documents**

Documents and presentations for the working group will be available online at: [http://www.energy.ca.gov/2013\\_energy policy/documents/index.html#2339group](http://www.energy.ca.gov/2013_energy policy/documents/index.html#2339group).

March 25, 2013

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Mail Lists: energypolicy, efficiency, building standards